

Message Text

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SUBJ: AMERICAN LITERARY FIGURES FOR ADELAIDE FESTIVAL WRITERS
WEEK AND SYDNEY AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL'S AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN WRITERS' SYMPOSIUM

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THE POST, TOGETHER WITH THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS LISTED ABOVE, HAVE BEEN IN LONG NEGOTIATIONS TRYING TO GET GOOD AMERICAN REPRESENTATION IN THE FOLLOWING TWO EVENT: (A) WRITERS' WEEK, ADELAIDE, MARCH 8-13 AND (B) WRITERS' SYMPOSIUM, SYDNEY, MARCH 26-27. AAEF TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTS WRITERS' WEEK, AND THIS YEAR WE HAD OFFERED TO FUND TWO DISTINGUISHED VISITOR GRANTS. AFTER SEVERAL CANDIDATES HAD ACCEPTED, THEN DECLINED, WE SETTLED ON SUSAN SONTAG AND KURT VONNEGUT AND FESTIVAL SPONSORS HAD SECURED COMMITMENT TO ATTEND FROM TENNESSEE WILLIAMS. SONTAG SUBSEQUENTLY DECLINED. LAST WEEK VONNEGUT DECLINED. TODAY WE LEARNED THAT WILLIAMS HAS DECIDED NOT TO COME. ALL THREE HAD ALSO BEEN ASKED, AND AGREED, TO STAY ON FOR LATER SYMPOSIUM IN SYDNEY.

2. PROGRAMS BOTH EVENTS HAVE BEEN PRINTED AND MUCH PUBLICITY GENERATED ABOUT AMERICAN PRESENCE THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR.

3. REALIZE IT IS NOW PROBABLY IMPOSSIBLE TO RECRUIT A PRO-
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MINENT SUBSTITUTE FOR ADELAIDE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE DEPART-

MENT AND AGENCY ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE GOOD AMERICAN PARTICIPANT
FOR SYDNEY TO REPLACE VONNEGUT, WILLIAMS IN SYMPOSIUM ON
THE NOVEL. FOR USIA: WE WILL ASK JAMES MICHENER TO TAKE PART
SYDNEY SYMPOSIUM IN ADDITION TO HIS BROADER "BICENTENNIAL"
TALKS AT OTHER VENUES IN AUSTRALIA. BUT STILL FEEL
WE NEED ANOTHER PRESTIGIOUS AMERICAN WRITER FOR EITHER THE
SESSION ON DRAMA OR TO APPEAR TOGETHER WITH MICHENER ON THE
"NOVEL" SESSION. IS THERE AN AMERICAN LITERARY GIFURE NOW
ON AMSPEC OR VOLSPKR STATUS IN AREA WHO MIGHT BE DIVERTED
HERE FOR THIS PURPOSE? WE CONFIDENT IF HE CAN BE LOCATED
AND IS INTERESTED, FUNDING CAN BE FOUND FROM LOCAL SOURCES,
INCLUDING POSSIBLY AAEF.
HARGROVE

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